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THE

FORCE OF EXAMPLE, &c.

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OR,

THE HISTORY OF

HENRY AND CAROLINE:

WRITTEN FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT

OF YOUNG PERSONS.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

THE

FORCE OF EXAMPLE, &c.

CHAP. I.

MR. Luſhington, the amiable poſſeſſor of Glandford-lodge, was the father of four lovely children, whoſe diſpoſitions, though not perfectly faultleſs, were not of a nature to give him any ſerious diſquietude. The pains

that were taken to eradicate thoſe little imperfections were crowned with the moſt gratifying ſucceſs; and the young Luſhingtons were looked upon as patterns for all the children of the ſurrounding neighbourhood, both for information and politeneſs. As Mr. L. was not only a man of large property, but a juſtice of the peace, he found his various engagements break in upon that time he wiſhed entirely to have devoted to the education of his children; but, as that was the caſe, he engaged a clergyman, of great erudition and high reſpectability, to aſſiſt him in the important office. Mrs. Luſhington had, likewiſe, the good fortune to meet with a lady of accompliſhed manners and ſweet diſpoſition, to whoſe maternal

maternal tenderneſs ſhe could intruſt the care of her little girls when ſhe made viſits (as was frequently the caſe) to her brother, who reſided about twenty miles from the lodge, and whoſe ill ſtate of health gave her much anxiety.——Mr. Henley, for that was his name, was a character totally oppoſite to that of his ſiſter—his higheſt virtue was *good-nature*, and his greateſt happineſs *good living:* the firſt quality he carried to ſo great an exceſs that he never oppoſed the wiſhes of thoſe with whom he was at all intimately connected, and of courſe his wife's authority was abſolute in the family; and as it was her deſire that her children ſhould in no one inſtance be ſubjected to contradiction, he yielded to

her opinion, though he often felt the ill effects of his compliance, for both Adolphus and Caroline would uſe no ceremony in telling him to *mind his own buſineſs*, if he ever attempted, in the ſlighteſt degree, to point out that their behaviour had not been exactly what he wiſhed.

Although Mrs. Luſhington had a natural ſiſterly affection for this weak man, yet ſhe was both vexed and provoked when ſhe perceived the melancholy effect which this miſtaken mode of education had upon his unfortunate children, and carefully avoided taking her own with her, in the occaſional viſits which ſhe paid to Henley-abbey.

Adolphus,

Adolphus Henley had been ſent to a dozen different ſchools, but contrived to give ſuch melancholy accounts to his mother of the treatment he had received, that he never ſtaid above ſix weeks at any of them, and at length it was reſolved that he ſhould have a maſter at home. Accordingly a tutor was engaged, whoſe embarraſſed circumſtances compelled him to agree to every propoſal that Mrs. Henley thought proper to make; but the moſt important article which was ſtipulated between them was, that *puniſhment* was to be *totally excluded*, and *inſtruction* only offered, when her ſon was in the humour to receive it.

Adolphus, whoſe natural diſpoſition

was proud, artful, and over-bearing, was, by this wretched mode of education, rendered the moſt unamiable boy that can be conceived; to his inferiors his manners were inſolent in the higheſt degree; and even to his equals he behaved with an air of conſequential importance, that made him both ſhunned and deſpiſed.

Caroline was by nature deſtitute of thoſe vices which diſgraced her brother's character, but had been totally ſpoiled by too much indulgence, and a falſe education; from the age of five years ſhe had been put under the management of a Madam Le Moine, a French woman, of low extraction, whoſe councils were rather calculated

to

to impreſs *falſe ideas* than to inſtil *juſt ones*; and therefore all Caroline's acquirements conſiſted of a little bad French, and worſe Italian. Though ſhe had very little taſte for uſeful knowledge, ſhe had the higheſt reliſh for novels and romances; and, at the age of thirteen, ſhe had read every work of that deſcription that was to be obtained within twenty miles of the Abbey.

As the ill ſtate of Mr. Henley's health increaſed, Mrs. Luſhington, who had been ſummoned to attend him, thought it her duty to point out the neceſſity there was for ſettling his affairs, and appointing proper perſons as guardians to his children. The poor man,

who too late perceived the error of his conduct, conjured her in the ſtrongeſt terms to perſuade Mr. Luſhington to take upon himſelf that important office, aſſuring her it would be the only circumſtance that could make his laſt moments comfortable—"for, (ſaid he) "I know I have dreadfully neglected "the duty of a father in my life-time; "but if, at my death, I leave them "under the entire care of you, and "my worthy brother, I hope I ſhall "make ſome atonement for my fault." A meſſenger was accordingly diſpatched to Glandford lodge, and Mr. Luſhington obeyed the ſummons. He conſented to the dying man's requeſt, on condition that their mother was not in the ſlighteſt degree to interfere with her

her children's education—they were only to pay her occaſional viſits—but their reſidence was to be at their uncle's—and in a few days after the arrangement of his affairs, this poor miſguided man cloſed an exiſtence that had neither been attended with ſatisfaction to himſelf, or uſeful to his family.

CHAP. II.

ALTHOUGH Mr. Luſhington felt it incumbent on himſelf to accept the truſt his brother-in-law was ſolicitous to repoſe in him, yet he foreſaw it might be attended both with unpleaſant and painful conſequences; for though he had no apprehenſion that his nephew's bad example might be in the ſlighteſt degree injurious to the morals of his *eldeſt ſon*, yet there was a pliancy of diſpoſition in the youngeſt that led him to fear he might be perſuaded into the commiſſion of faults, which would never have entered into his *own imagination*.

imagination. He was likewiſe naturally inclined to idleneſs, and totally devoid of emulation, but he poſſeſſed a ſweetneſs of temper, and a tenderneſs of heart, that made him univerſally beloved.

William Luſhington, who was eleven months older than his brother, entered into his fifteenth year on the day the young Henleys removed to Glandford-lodge. Although his temper was not equal to Henry's, yet his underſtanding was far *ſuperior*; and his higheſt gratification conſiſted in cultivating thoſe gifts which nature had endowed him with. He perfectly venerated his parents, and had a moſt fraternal affection for his brother and ſiſters;

but his pleaſures and purſuits were ſo different to thoſe of Henry, that they were ſeldom together but at the hours devoted to ſtudy; and when he heard that his couſin, a boy of his own age, was coming to reſide at the Lodge, he felt the higheſt ſatisfaction, and indulged the hope of finding a companion, whoſe *ſimilarity of taſte* might lay the foundation for their future friendſhip.

Emily Luſhington was equally ſanguine in her expectation of finding a pleaſing companion in her couſin Caroline; for, as Eliza was two years younger than herſelf, ſhe conſidered her too much of a child to aſſociate with. Indeed *ſelf-importance* was the great

great fault in Emily's character, which, in the abſence of her mother, ſhe always carried to a moſt unpardonable length. It was not the pride of birth or fortune, from which ſhe derived her conſequence; for Emily's was the pride of underſtanding. She certainly was not only endowed with a ſolidity of judgment, but ſhe poſſeſſed an aptneſs of conception that was really aſtoniſhing; and to this quickneſs of thought was united a ſatirical turn of mind that only Mrs. Luſhington's preſence could repreſs. Although ſhe was of a very volatile diſpoſition, ſhe was unremitting in her application during the hours devoted to improvement, and was highly grateful for the inſtruction ſhe received; and this made

her

her an amazing favourite with Mrs. Darnley, who was too much inclined to overlook the failing in her character.

Eliza was all gentleneſs, ſweetneſs, and affability; her underſtanding was very inferior to her ſiſter's, but ſhe was both attentive and aſſiduous, and always performed her taſk with credit to herſelf. Her heart was feeling to an exceſs, and a tale of ſorrow always beguiled her of her tears:—The only failing in her character was, that ſhe was rather apt to *conceal*, inſtead of *acknowledging* her *faults*, merely from a dread of her parents' diſpleaſure.

When Mrs. Henley was at firſt informed

formed that her children were to be entirely under the care of Mr. Luſhington, ſhe was very much exaſperated at the circumſtance; but when he pointed out to her the ruin that muſt enſue from her preſent mode of education, ſhe began to feel the juſtneſs of his obſervations, which her ſon's overbearing conduct, *even to herſelf*, greatly enforced, and ſhe conſented to their removal to Glandford-lodge, the week after the funeral.

As the young Luſhingtons had not ſeen their couſins for ſeveral years, they were all impatience for the arrival of the day that was to introduce them to their knowledge, and they received them

them with expreſſions of affection and joy.

Adolphus, who conſidered his leaving the Abbey as a much *heavier misfortune* than the *death of his father*, returned their careſſes with a ſullen coldneſs; but Caroline received their civilities both with pleaſure and gratitude, and felt much happier than ſhe had either ventured to hope or expect.

The morning after their arrival Mr. Luſhington ſent for Adolphus into his ſtudy, with a view of diſcovering the progreſs he had made in his learning, and was aſtoniſhed at his ignorance, and provoked at his ſelf-conceit.

ceit. After pointing out the authors he wiſhed him to read, and the neceſſity there was for the cloſeſt application, he informed him it would be neceſſary to adopt a very different mode of behaviour to Mr. Hervey, to that which he had been accuſtomed to uſe to the gentleman who had ſuperintended his education—"For, (ſaid Mr. "Luſhington) though I ſhould certain-"ly be very much diſpleaſed if you "were deficient in reſpect to myſelf; "yet, be aſſured, I ſhall be ſtill more "ſo, if you omit it to Mr. Hervey."

Adolphus neither promiſed to be attentive or obedient, but liſtened to his uncle's advice without making any reply. When Mr. Luſhington had kept

kept him about an hour, and laid down ſeveral rules for his future conduct, he took him by the hand, and in the moſt affectionate manner aſſured him of his unalterable friendſhip, and parental care, and beſought him in all reſpects to conſider him as a father, who would not only ſtudy his intereſt, but promote his happineſs; and, deſiring him to join his couſins in Mr. Hervey's apartments, he put a guinea into his hand, telling him it was to laſt until that day month.

Adolphus, who had never been reſtrained in his expences, received the guinea with indignation; and, what moſt boys would have thought a *liberal allowance*,

allowance, he conſidered as a *moſt paltry* ſum; and his pride was ſo highly offended, that it was with difficulty he could reſtrain his tears.

From the moment of his arrival at the lodge, William perceived there was little chance of their being upon very amicable terms, for Adolphus had no pleaſure in ſtudy, and was incapable of converſation;—he loved what he called *fun*; which, in other words, was *miſchief*; and as he perceived Henry had no objection to that kind of amuſement, he was reſolved to pretend to have a great affection for him.

Adolphus had not been a month an inmate

inmate of Mr. Luſhington's family, when the *contagion of bad example* was evident in Henry's conduct; inſtead of treating Mr. Hervey with the reſpectful diffidence that uſed to mark his actions, he received his inſtructions with a careleſs negligence, that was abſolutely bordering upon impertinence.

It was a cuſtom for the boys always to play an hour after breakfaſt, and Mr. Hervey had frequently ſpoken to Adolphus on his want of punctuality; for, inſtead of returning to his ſtudies at the *expiration* of the *hour*, it was ſometimes twenty minutes beyond it; and one morning he not only exceeded that time, but walked into

the

the ſtudy with his hat on; and upon Mr. Hervey reprimanding him for the impropriety, he ſaid, he ſhould not only come into the room with his hat on, but *keep it ſo*, if he thought proper. Mr. Hervey ordered him to retire inſtantly to his own apartment, which he refuſed; and it was with great difficulty the footman could drag him there, where his tutor proteſted he ſhould remain, and live upon bread and water, until he apologized in the moſt ſubmiſſive manner.

Caroline heard of the diſgrace her brother had brought upon himſelf without the ſlighteſt marks of emotion, for there was little love between them; but Henry Luſhington, whom Adol-

phus

phus had ſhown more affection for than any other part of the family, was ſenſibly affected by the circumſtance, and requeſted Mr. Hervey's permiſſion to aſk his couſin whether he was not ready to apologize for his tranſgreſſion.

As ſoon as Henry entered the apartment, Adolphus burſt into a flood of tears, unable to command the contending emotions of his mind.—— "Here's a diſgrace! (exclaimed he, ſtamping his foot with indignation) "Oh, if my poor father could have "thought his ſon would have been "treated in this inhuman manner, do "you think he would have left me in "the power of ſuch a tyrant?—But I'll

" be revenged (continued he) if it coſts
" me my life!"

" My dear Adolphus (replied Henry)
" indeed I am grieved to ſee you ſo
" unhappy; but you know it is your
" own fault, and Mr. Hervey would
" never have thought of confining you
" to your room if you had not acted
" ſo very rudely to him; and even
" now, if you will only aſk his pardon,
" he will ſet you at liberty directly."

" No; I'll ſtay here till I die firſt,
(ſaid he, half choaked with fury and
indignation) " Am I not a gentleman?
" and do you think that I'll condeſcend
" to aſk pardon of ſuch a poltroon as
" that?"

" A gentle-

"A gentleman! (ſaid Mr. Luſhington, who had entered, unperceived) "and has not your conduct diſgraced "the appellation?——Obſerve me, "Adolphus (continued he) I will not "have my children's minds *corrupted* "*by examples of this nature*;—and, "unleſs you this moment reſolve "to make every apology in your "power to Mr. Hervey, for your "daring and impertinent behaviour, "you remain no longer my gueſt. "I know a ſchoolmaſter exactly cal-"culated to manage boys of ſuch un-"governable tempers as your's; and "under his tuition I will place you "until you have acquired the habit of "ſubduing your paſſions, and conquer-"ing your impetuoſity."

Adolphus,

Adolphus, perceiving by his uncle's countenance the violence of his diſpleaſure, was convinced that all attempts to palliate his faults would be unſucceſsful, and therefore thought the wiſeſt meaſure he could adopt would be to make an humiliating confeſſion of his fault; for the very idea of a ſchool was terrible; and ſuch a one as Mr. Luſhington had deſcribed truly formidable! He therefore intreated to be releaſed from his preſent confinement, and promiſed to make the conceſſion that was required.

CHAP. III.

MRS. DARNLEY, the lady who aſſiſted Mrs. Luſhington in the education of her daughters, had much leſs reaſon to be diſpleaſed with Caroline's mode of conduct than Mr. Hervey had with her brother's; and ſhe even diſcovered traces of an amiable diſpoſition in her. But Emily, whoſe natural quickneſs of underſtanding, and advantages of education, gave her a pre-eminence over her couſin, was continually boaſting of this ſuperiority; and would frequently be aſking whether ſhe remembered events in hiſtory,

hiſtory, which ſhe knew ſhe had never heard of, for the pleaſure of laughing at her ignorance.

On theſe occaſions Caroline would generally retort with ſharpneſs, but one morning, not being in a humour to contend with her couſin, ſhe burſt into a paſſion of tears, declaring ſhe wiſhed there was no ſuch thing as *hiſtory in the world.*

" And why, my dear Caroline, (ſaid " Mrs. Luſhington, who at that moment " entered the room) would you wiſh " to remain ignorant of the manners " and cuſtoms of the different nations " that compoſe the univerſe? for it

 " certainly

"certainly is both a pleaſing and a uſeful
"ſtudy."

"So it may, aunt; (replied Caroline,
"wiping the tears from her eyes) but I
"am ſure I had better be ignorant of it
"all my life, if it is to make me as diſ-
"agreeable as it does Emily."

"I am ſhocked (ſaid Mrs. Luſhing-
"ton, turning to her daughter) that
"thoſe acquirements which were in-
"tended to make you *pleaſing to ſociety*,
"ſhould have the effect of making you
"*diſguſting* to it—But do not, my dear
"girl, (continued Mrs. Luſhington,
"addreſſing her niece) ſuffer the miſ-
"application which Emily has made

"of

" of her knowledge to give you a diſ-
" guſt to a ſtudy, above all other the
" moſt eſſential:—for hiſtory is not
" only calculated to expand the imagi-
" nation, but to improve the mind;
" and a perſon totally unacquainted
" with that ſtudy, muſt of courſe have
" their ideas bounded to the ſpot where
" they reſide, without being capable of
" ſoaring beyond it, or deriving any ad-
" vantages from the deſcription of the
" manners and cuſtoms of the different
" nations that inhabit the globe:—But
" the moſt important uſe of hiſtory, to
" a youthful mind, is the *impreſſion*
" which the account of *great and diſin-*
" *tereſted actions* makes upon their *heart*,
" and the ſtrong incentive it is to
" virtue."

 " And

" And there are very pretty ſtories in " hiſtory too; are there not, Mamma?" ſaid Eliza, who had been paying the utmoſt attention to all that had paſſed.

" Yes, my love; (replied Mrs. " Luſhington) and if you can recol- " lect any, I would have you amuſe " your couſin with the relation of " them."

" No, Mamma; (ſaid Eliza) I cannot " tell them *half as well as you do*; and " ſo pray ſit down and tell us one of " your *old ſtories*."

" I have a *new one*, (replied Mrs. " Luſhington) which I think will pleaſe " you very much; I read it this morn- " ing

" ing in the Hiſtory of Sweden; and
" think it one of the ſtrongeſt proofs
" of filial affection, and delicate ſenti-
" ment, I ever recollect meeting with.

' A gentleman of Sweden, who for
' many years had filled an office of
' importance with the utmoſt reſpec-
' tability, was at length detected in
' ſo baſe an act of fraud and decep-
' tion, that he was deprived of his em-
' ployment, and cited to appear before
' his accuſers—and the proofs of guilt
' were ſo ſtrong againſt him, that he
' was condemned, and an order iſſued
' for his execution!—This dreadful
' intelligence was communicated by a
' friend to his ſon, a youth of about
' eighteen, who was at ſome diſtance

'from the capital, and had not heard
'of his father's diſgrace. The anguiſh
'of his feelings at this melancholy in-
'formation may be eaſily imagined,
'but the diſintereſtedneſs of his con-
'duct was much ſuperior to what you
'can conceive. He flew to the ſcene
'of his father's confinement, and,
'throwing himſelf at the feet of his
'judge, conjured him to accept *his*
'*life* as a ranſom for a father's, whoſe
'exiſtence he valued far dearer than
'his own!

'The judge was ſo delighted at this
'proof of filial tenderneſs, that he delay-
'ed the execution and ſent an account of
'the young man's conduct to the king;
'who, ſtruck by this uncommon proof

'of

'of magnanimity, ſent an order of 'free pardon to the father, with direc- 'tions that a title of honor ſhould be 'conferred upon the ſon.

'When this amiable youth was in- 'formed of the king's generoſity, his 'joy and gratitude were not to be con- 'ceived, but, turning to the gentleman 'who conveyed the pleaſing intelli- 'gence—Sir (ſaid he) the gift of life, 'which his Majeſty has conferred upon 'my father, is the moſt ineſtimable 'treaſure he could have beſtowed up- 'on *me*, but as to the title of dignity 'which he has ſo graciouſly conde- 'ſcended to hold out for my acceptance, 'I muſt beg leave to decline, from an 'idea that it would be likely to *perpe-*

'*tuate the remembrance of my father's*
'*diſgrace!*

'When the King was made acquaint-
'ed with the delicacy of his motive for
'declining the proffered dignity, he
'immediately ſent for him into his pre-
'ſence, loaded him with the commen-
'dation he deſerved, and beſtowed
'upon him the office of *Confidential*
'*Secretary.*'

"Oh what a charming young man!
"(ſaid Caroline) I do not think, that
"in all the romances and novels Ma-
"dam Lemoine uſed to read to me,
"I ever met with a prettier ſtory."

"It is a matter of *fact*, you know,
"Caroline,

" Caroline, (ſaid Mrs. Luſhington) and
" muſt of courſe make a much ſtrong-
" er impreſſion on the imagination than
" any relation of circumſtances merely
" calculated to amuſe or miſlead the
" mind.—As to the generality of no-
" vels, I think them highly prejudicial
" to youth; and, at beſt, they are
" calculated to give falſe impreſſions of
" real life, and to fill the head with
" miſtaken notions; whilſt the poor
" girl who has made that kind of read-
" ing her amuſement, is imperceptibly
" deluded into the path of error, and
" inſtead of becoming a rational or en-
" tertaining companion, ſhe muſt con-
" tinually be ſubject to mortifying ſen-
" ſations, from the conviction of her
" own ignorance—But (continued Mrs.

" Luſhington, addreſſing her diſcourſe " to her daughter) as Caroline juſtly " obſerves, if an acquirement of in- " formation was merely to produce " *conſequence* and *ſelf-importance*, it cer- " tainly would not be a deſirable ac- " quiſition; and, as it has had that " unfortunate effect upon you, Emi- " ly, I forbid you from endeavour- " ing to encreaſe your little ſtock of " knowledge, until you have learned " the *uſeful leſſon of humility*; and ſhall " requeſt Mrs. Darnley to with-hold " her inſtructions, until you have con- " quered a failing that renders you ex- " tremely unamiable."

It was not poſſible for Mrs. Luſhington to have thought of a puniſhment that

that could have been more afflictive to her daughter than the one ſhe had ſelected; for, independent of the diſgrace ſhe felt at not being allowed to receive inſtruction, ſhe had naturally ſo great a fondneſs for books, that the being prohibited their uſe was a ſerious evil to her; and ſhe was obliged to quit the room, to prevent her mortification from being viſible.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

WHILST the improvement in Caroline's manners and diſpoſition afforded Mr. and Mrs. Luſhington the higheſt ſatisfaction, the alteration which a few weeks had produced in Henry's conduct was calculated to give them the utmoſt concern; and what tended to increaſe that ſenſation, was the ſtrong partiality which he hourly teſtified for his unworthy couſin.

From the moment that Adolphus Henley arrived at Glandford-lodge, the evi-

dent

dent ſuperiority he diſcovered in William Luſhington's mind had acted as a barrier to their intimacy; but the indolence of Henry's diſpoſition had been the means of putting them more upon a par, and the pliancy of his nature had made him a fit inſtrument for Adolphus's baſe deſigns.

His firſt meaſure was to give Henry an idea that the number of hours his father confined him to his ſtudies was a proof of his *want of affection*, which he enforced by deſcribing the mode of life he had led with his parents; and drawing a compariſon between the two ſituations. When he had ſo far ſucceeded as to make this poor boy believe, that the very conduct which was

a proof of tenderneſs was a ſymptom of its deficiency, his next plan was to impreſs his mind with an idea of *his own importance*; and the very character which, a few weeks before, was all humility and good-nature, became proud, imperious, and ſelf-ſufficient. His attachment to his brother and ſiſters was evidently weakened, and he had no pleaſure in any amuſement in which Adolphus was not a partaker. Mr. Hervey, who had ever been an object of diſlike with Adolphus, had now in great meaſure loſt his aſcendency over Henry; and, inſtead of receiving his inſtructions with grateful humility, he ſcarcely condeſcended to attend to his precepts.

Adolphus

Adolphus had long indulged the idea of being revenged of his tutor for the diſgrace he had brought upon him, by confining him, and had meditated a thouſand ſchemes before he could determine upon one calculated to give him the deſired ſatisfaction—At length, hearing Mr. Hervey expreſs a natural antipathy to the water, and an incapability of ſwimming, he, with *ſome difficulty*, prevailed upon Henry to aſſiſt him in a deſign of precipitating the worthy man into a rapid ſtream that ran through part of Mr. Luſhington's grounds, and gave motion to a mill at the end of them.

The boundaries of this ſtream were in one part remarkably narrow; and, by

by giving a carpenter's man five ſhillings, they procured a plank that would extend acroſs it. — This plank they contrived to rub over with ſoft ſoap, and, after having compleated their taſks much to their tutor's ſatisfaction, aſked his permiſſion to go a fiſhing.

They contrived to throw in their lines near the ſpot deſtined for their amuſement, knowing Mr. Hervey would either accompany them or follow them thither. They had been at their employment about half an hour, and caught two fiſh, when the worthy clergyman joined them.

"Well (ſaid he, as he approached "the place) have you had any ſport?"—

"Oh

" Oh yes, Sir, (replied Adolphus) and " we have caught the ſtrangeſt looking " fiſh you ever ſaw!"—" Where is it?" ſaid Mr. Hervey.—" On the other ſide " the water; (replied Henley) for the " miller was ſo good as to lay this plank " for us, that we might try different " parts of the ſtream."

Mr. Hervey, unſuſpicious of this wicked boy's deſigns, immediately ſtepped upon the plank, and, moving rather quickly, his feet flew up, and he fell backwards into the water.

It was predetermined that they ſhould take to their heels the moment the expected accident happened, under a pretence of calling for help; but, in fact,

to

to prevent their being required to render any aſſiſtance; and poor Mr. Hervey, who had ſtruck the back part of his head a violent blow in the fall, was ſo ſtunned by that circumſtance, that it was ſome time before he ſo far recovered himſelf, as to be able to catch hold of the branch of a willow, that fortunately hung over the ſtream; and, when he effected his deliverance, he was totally unable to ſtand. The water which had entered his ſtomach, during the moments of inſenſibility, had ſo thoroughly diſtended it, that it was with difficulty he could draw his breath; and, had not Mr. Luſhington providentially paſſed that way, this vile prank might have been attended with the moſt fatal conſequences.

A couple

A couple of gardeners, whom the boys had ſent, now reached the ſpot; one of them Mr. Luſhington inſtantly diſpatched for Mr. Maitland, the ſurgeon; whilſt the other helped him to place Mr. Hervey in ſuch a ſituation as would be likely to bring the water off his ſtomach, and afterwards aſſiſted in leading him to the Lodge.

The moment Mr. Maitland examined the blow on his patient's head, he teſtified by his countenance that he thought it of an alarming nature, and ſeveral days elapſed before he pronounced this worthy man out of danger. During that period the agony and remorſe of Henry's mind may better be imagined than deſcribed; and it was with the

the utmoſt difficulty Adolphus prevented his throwing himſelf on his knees, and confeſſing the whole of the tranſaction to his father.

The agitation of Henry's ſpirits had not eſcaped Mr. Luſhington's obſervation; and, though he was perſuaded all his children had reaſon to love and reſpect Mr. Hervey, yet he thought the concern which his ſon teſtified, was even greater than he could have conceived; but, knowing he poſſeſſed a very feeling mind, he did not attempt to queſtion him upon the ſubject; and poor Mr. Hervey had not the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of the trick that had been played upon him.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

IT was not poſſible to ſuppoſe, but that the children of ſuch benevolent characters as Mr. and Mrs. Luſhington muſt, from the conſtant obſervance of the practice of that virtue, be naturally inclined to acts of liberality; and the ample ſupply of pocket-money which was allowed them, enabled them to gratify this amiable principle in a much fuller extent than young people of their years generally have the power of doing.

Henry,

Henry, who had always been foremoſt in every act of benevolence, until the time that his intimacy with Adolphus commenced, now always found ſome excuſe for with-holding his aſſiſtance; and, inſtead of diſpoſing of the greateſt part of his weekly allowance in acts of charity, it was ſquandered away in ſweetmeats, or ſome other ſelfiſh gratification:—and if at any time Adolphus perceived his natural amiable turn of mind likely to predominate—"How can you be ſuch a fool, "(he would exclaim) as to give your "money to thoſe who will only laugh "at your weakneſs?—Why, my good "fellow, you will ſoon be a beggar "yourſelf, if you go on in that way! "What do you ſuppoſe your riches

" were given you for but to diſpoſe
" of them upon *yourſelf?*— Why you
" might as well be without money, as
" not have the inclination to enjoy it!—
" Beſides, if you once get the charac-
" ter of a *charitable boy*, you'll never
" have a moment's peace, for the
" whole train of beggar's brats in the
" country will always be treading at
" your heels, with—God Almighty
" bleſs you, Sir, beſtow your cha-
" rity!"

Thus ridiculed out of its virtuous principles the character of Henry had undergone a total change, and thoſe who had formerly been fed by his bounty now could not even procure a morſel of bread through his aſſiſtance.

Amongſt a number of penſioners who were chiefly ſupported by Mr. Luſhington's liberality, was an old man, whoſe name was Richard Collins; he had lived gardener with the late poſſeſſor of Glandford-lodge five-and-forty years; and when the preſent amiable occupier of that beautiful ſeat made a purchaſe of it, old Richard was the firſt to offer his ſervices. Honeſty and plain-dealing were ſtrongly depicted in his venerable countenance, and carried with them a recommendatory letter.—— Mr. Luſhington not only accepted his ſervices, but placed him in a ſtation of ſome reſponſibility; but, when he had enjoyed this comfortable ſituation about nine years, a paralytic ſtroke deprived him of the uſe of his limbs, and diſ-

abled

abled him from earning his ſubſiſtence. As his ſons were both of them careleſs and expenſive young men, Richard had been obliged to devote great part of his own wages to the ſupport of their wives and children, and when this affliction befel him, he had no means of ſupplying the wants of nature.

As the children were all remarkably fond of old Richard, Mr. Luſhington enquired how much they were willing to devote, out of their allowance, for his weekly ſupport; and it was determined that each of them ſhould, every Sunday-morning, call at his cottage, and preſent their ſhilling. This employment uſed always to be attended with heart-felt ſatisfaction; and the bleſſings

which they received, not only from the old man, but his grand-children, filled their little breaſts with pleaſure and delight.

Henry had long declined theſe weekly viſits, upon ſome frivolous pretence or other; and, though Richard reſolved not to acquaint his maſter with the circumſtance, yet he determined to aſk Henry the reaſon of the alteration in his conduct, the firſt time he had a convenient opportunity; and one lovely evening, as he was ſeated on a bench on the outſide his door, with his grand-children playing around him, Henry paſſed, leaning on the arm of his couſin.

"Maſter

"Maſter Henry (ſaid Richard) I am "glad to ſee you; I've thought it a "main while ſince I ſhook you by the "hand;—and I've been mortally "grieved to think you ſhould forſake "your old friend."

"Friend! (ſaid Adolphus, with a "ſneer upon his countenance) and "pray, Sir, how long have you done "my couſin the *honour* to conſider "yourſelf his friend?"

"Ever ſince the time that his genero-"ſity to me gave him cauſe to ſuppoſe "that I muſt be ungrateful if I was *not* "*his friend.* But I fancy, young gen-"tleman, (continued he) I may thank "you for not receiving the ſame proofs

" of *his friendſhip* that I uſed to do be-
" fore you came to the Lodge."

" You old dog! (ſaid Adolphus, in
" a rage) do you live upon charity, and
" yet have the impudence to abuſe
" your benefactors for not being more
" liberal?"

" Since you don't know how *to be*
" *grateful for kindneſs* (ſaid Henry, in a
" tone of equal anger) you will re-
" ceive no more from me, I can aſſure
" you."

" Ah, Maſter Henry! (replied the
" old man, ſhaking his head) I am
" ſorry to ſee what a ſad thing a bad
" example is! — Who would have
" thought

" thought I ſhould have lived to ſee
" you treat a poor old man in ſuch an
" unhandſome manner!—What do you
" think his Honour would ſay, if he
" could know of your behaviour?"

" I'll teach you to talk of *bad exam-*
" *ple, you raſcal!*" ſaid Adolphus, tak-
ing up a handful of looſe duſt, and
throwing it in the old man's face.

At that moment one of his grand-
children, a lad of about fourteen years
of age, jumped over a ſtyle from an
adjoining field, and ſeeing his poor old
grandfather treated with ſo much inhu-
manity, ran up to Adolphus, and catch-
ing him by the collar with one hand,

with the other began thraſhing him moſt unmercifully. Henry, who was a boy of ſpirit, was not inactive in the affray, but flew to his friend's aſſiſtance; whilſt the boy, unmindful of his grandfather's injunctions to deſiſt, gave them both a moſt complete drubbing.

Mrs. Darnley and her young pupils, accompanied by William Luſhington, had that evening amuſed themſelves by gathering a baſket of fine fruit, with an intention of preſenting it to poor Richard, and arrived at the cottage juſt at the cloſe of this affray.

The deplorable figure which both Adolphus and Henry made, abſolutely terrified

terrified their ſiſters—and the blood, which ſtreamed from both their noſes, alarmed poor little Eliza to ſo great a degree, that ſhe burſt into a violent fit of crying, which nothing could appeaſe, until a baſon of cold water had reſtored her brother to his former appearance, and he had repeatedly aſſured her he was not injured by the conteſt.

Richard gave Mrs. Darnley a ſimple matter of fact deſcription of the cauſe of the quarrel; at the ſame time lamented, that the affection which his grandſon bore him ſhould have induced him to ſtrike the ſon of his benefactor; and conjured her, with tears in his eyes, to endeavour to ſoften

Mr. Luſhington's diſpleaſure—" For " if (ſaid the old man) I ſhould have " lived long enough to feel his Ho- " nour's anger, I ſhall have lived to " know the greateſt misfortune that " could have befallen me."

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

MRS. DARNLEY compoſed poor Richard's apprehenſions, by an aſſurance that Mr. Luſhington, ſo far from diſapproving the lad's conduct, would applaud his courage, and reward his affection.

Whilſt this converſation was paſſing between Mrs. Darnley and the cottager, Adolphus, in a whiſper, told Henry they had better make the beſt of their way home, and *relate their own ſtory firſt*; and they both immediately

ſet off, acroſs the fields, a nearer way than they had come.

Juſt before they arrived at the Lodge, "Now, Henry, (ſaid Adolphus) let us "walk very ſlow, for fear we ſhould "meet my uncle; and do you put "your hand to your head, and pre-"tend it aches violently; for I know, "if he thinks you are hurt, he will "trounce the fellow moſt completely, "and we ſhall eſcape puniſhment; but "if Madam Darnley tells her tale firſt, "we ſhall be in a fine ſituation, unleſs "we can excite your father's pity."

"No; (replied Henry) I won't tell "*a ſtory about it*; for we certainly "were in the wrong; only I was angry

"at

" at hearing the old man ſpeak ſo
" plainly to you; and that made me
" forget the poor fellow's *age* and *mis-*
" *fortune.*"

" Why you are fit to be a Methodiſt-
" preacher! (ſaid Adolphus) Not tell
" a ſtory to ſave yourſelf a ſevere pu-
" niſhment!—Beſides, did I ſtrike that
" impudent raſcal firſt?—Indeed, Hen-
" ry (continued he) I had thought you
" loved me better than this, and would
" have done any thing to ſave me from
" diſgrace."

This he ſaid in ſuch a tone of ſorrow, as inſtantly made its way to poor Henry's breaſt; which the artful Adolphus perceiving, ſaid—" However, as

" I am

[" I am certain you don't love me, I
" am ſure you won't mind my leaving
" you; and, unleſs you promiſe *not to*
" *tell my uncle that I threw the duſt in the*
" *old man's face*, I am reſolved to run
" away this very moment; and if any
" harm happens to me you may blame
" yourſelf for it."

Henry, who really felt ſtrongly attached to this worthleſs boy, immediately promiſed every thing he wiſhed; and ſcarcely had he given his word that he would do exactly as he directed, when they perceived Mr. Luſhington approaching.

" Now, Henry, (ſaid Adolphus, with
" an air of exultation) lean upon
" me,

" me, and pretend to be very much
" hurt."

" My dear fellow, (exclaimed Mr.
" Luſhington, as he met them, in an
" alarmed tone of voice) what is the
" matter?—You ſeem ill, my love!"

" Yes, uncle; (replied Adolphus)
" and well he may be ill; for if you
" knew how he has been uſed, you
" would wonder he was able to move;
" but, thank God, I was there to de-
" fend him, or elſe I believe he might
" have loſt his life through the rage
" and fury of that impudent boy."

" Loſt his life! (ſaid Mr. Luſhing-
" ton, evidently ſtill more alarmed)
" for

" for Heaven's ſake tell me what it all
" means; and who has dared to lift his
" hand againſt my boy."

" Why, you muſt know, Sir, (con-
" tinued Adolphus) that laſt week
" Henry had ſpent, or given away, ſo
" much of his allowance, that he was
" unable to ſend old Richard his Sun-
" day-preſent; but he reſolved to make
" him amends the next week, by giv-
" ing him *double*; and we called at his
" houſe to tell him how it was; when,
" inſtead of ſaying it was of no conſe-
" quence, and that another week would
" do as well, he told my couſin he had
" no *right* to have ſpent the money,
" for that it was *his*; and unleſs he
" always

" always paid him regularly, he would
" tell you.

" You know, Sir, I love Henry as
" I do my life; and could not help
" reſenting the old man's behaviour,
" and told him what an ungrateful fel-
" low he was, to treat his benefactor
" with ſuch unbecoming freedom; and
" Henry ſaid, he ſhould never have
" another ſhilling of *his money*, and then
" walked away; when his grand-ſon,
" a boy half as big again as either of
" us, took up a handful of looſe ſtones
" and threw after us. My couſin was
" ſo enraged at this, that he turned
" back and ſtruck the fellow a blow on
" the face; upon which he beat Henry
" about the head in a moſt unmerciful
" manner,

" manner; and if I had not thruſt my-
" ſelf in between them, I am ſure he
" would have been battered to pieces."

" If I find (ſaid Mr. Luſhington)
" that the ſtory is *exactly as you have*
" *related it*, the boy ſhall ſuffer ſevere-
" ly for his audacity. As to the old
" man, he is dependent upon me for
" the means of his exiſtence, and
" therefore *will eſcape my reſentment*,
" though he will have forfeited my af-
" fection."

" Why, uncle, (replied Adolphus)
" I never heard of ſuch a thing in
" my life; for I think, his being *in*
" *your power* is the very reaſon why
" you ſhould make him *feel that he is*

"*ſo*; at leaſt I know I would do ſo, if I
"was in your ſituation."

"I hope, Adolphus, (ſaid Mr. Luſh-
"ington) before *you are in a ſituation to*
"*ſhew authority*, that you will have ſub-
"dued that *principle of revenge* which
"too often actuates thoſe, whoſe ex-
"alted ſtations allow them an oppor-
"tunity of evincing it:—for the for-
"giveneſs of injuries, when we have
"the power of puniſhing them, is the
"diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of a li-
"beral mind:—and Henry the Fourth,
"of France, who was one of the great-
"eſt princes that ever reigned, uſed to
"ſay, that the ſatisfaction derived from
"*revenge, was momentary*, but that which

"was

"was gained from *clemency laſted for* "*ever.*"

By this time they had reached the houſe; and after Mr. Luſhington had examined Henry's head to ſee if any of the blows he had received had really injured him, he deſired he would go immediately to bed, and then walked directly to the old man's cottage.

Richard ſtill remained in the ſame ſituation which the boys had found him in; but, upon ſeeing Mr. Luſhington approach, he called to his grand-ſon to bring his crutches; and, raiſing himſelf upon them, he deſired Stephen not to ſtir, but to ſtay and hear all that his Honour had to ſay.

"I am

"I am come, Richard (ſaid Mr.
"Luſhington, in a calm, though evi-
"dently diſpleaſed tone of voice, to
"complain of the ill-treatment my ſon
"and nephew have received from a
"lad, whom they tell me is your grand-
"ſon; and to ſay that, though I allow
"it to be wrong to have for one
"week with-held your accuſtomed al-
"lowance, yet, to *reproach* him for it,
"was not the way to convince him of
"his error."

"Reproach him! your Honour, (re-
"plied the poor man, with tears in his
"eyes) God forbid that Richard Col-
"lins ſhould ever live to act ſo baſe a
"part as to reproach the ſon of his be-
"nefactor!—But alas, Sir! (continued
"the

"the old man, (wiping away the fall-
"ing tear, with the ſleeve of his coat)
"I doubt Madam Darnley han't been
"able to perſuade you that I did not de-
"ſerve the uſage that I met with; for I
"would rather have died than have done
"or ſaid any thing unbecoming to Maſ-
"ter Henry; but, as to that young
"ſpark, all the ſervants in your Ho-
"nour's houſe ſays how he ſpoils him.
"To be ſure I was mortal angry with
"Stephen for ſtriking a *gentleman*, tho'
"for cartain, his behaviour was not
"much like one; for to throw dirt and
"ſtones in the face of ſuch an old man
"as I am, was a cowardly trick, to ſay
"the beſt of it."

"Throw

"Throw ſtones *in your face!*" exclaimed Mr. Luſhington.

"Yes, Sir; (ſaid Stephen, who had "ſtood by the ſide of his grand-father, "with a modeſt, though undaunted "countenance) that he *did* throw ſtones "at my poor old granny, and a good "handful too; and if he had been a "duke, I would have leathered his "jacket, if I could; though I was "very ſorry, after my paſſion was over, "that I had ſtruck Maſter Henry; but "they both tried to maul me ſo, that I "was forced to give them two plump-"ers in their eyes, to make them ſheer "off.—But if I have made your Ho-"nour angry, I ſhall be mortal ſad

"about

"about it; for I am ſure my grand-
"father will never forgive me for it."

"I perceive, (ſaid Mr. Luſhington)
"Adolphus has impoſed ſome falſhood
"upon me; therefore, Richard, I beg
"you will ſit down and relate the cir-
"cumſtance exactly as it occurred."

When Richard had finiſhed his ac-
count, Mr. Luſhington took him by the
hand—"My old friend, (ſaid he) I beg
"your pardon for having, even in *idea*,
"believed you could be *ungrateful*;—
"and as for you (continued he, turn-
"ing to Stephen) you are a fine ſpirit-
"ed boy; and I hope you will always
"make a point of defending thoſe who
"are unable to protect themſelves; and
"there's

" there's half a crown to convince you
" I am not diſpleaſed with you."

The countenances both of the old man and his grand-ſon were inſtantly lighted up with the ſmiles of grateful pleaſure; and Mr. Luſhington took his leave, amidſt their prayers for his happineſs, and acknowledgments for his kindneſs.

CHAP. VII.

AS Mr. Luſhington returned to the Lodge, he was met by Mr. Hervey, who had been ſome days abſent upon buſineſs of importance; and related to him the conduct of his ſon and nephew, whilſt the tear of parental tenderneſs evinced how ſeverely he was pained by the alteration in the conduct of the former.

"My dear Sir, (replied Mr. Hervey) "I have long thought that the prevail- "ing power of *bad example* was ſuffici- "ently

"ently ſtrong to over-turn all the in-
"fluence which *precept* could obtain
"over the youthful mind, unleſs there
"was a ſtrength of judgment, ſeldom
"met with at Henry's age, to withſtand
"the temptation; and your ſon's con-
"duct has fatally convinced me that my
"opinion was well founded. That
"being the caſe, the remedy is plain—
"Remove young Henley from his ſo-
"ciety—prevent the poſſibility of his
"being guided by his pernicious coun-
"ſels, and you will perceive all his
"natural propenſities to virtue return;
"and he will again become the dear
"amiable boy we once beheld him."

"You are certainly right, my good
"friend, (replied Mr. Luſhington, with

 "a ſigh)

" ſigh) and I never ought to have in-
" troduced a boy of my nephew's diſpo-
" ſition into the ſociety of my children.
" Oh, continued he, claſping his hands
" in an agony of diſtreſs, if I have
" been the innocent deſtroyer of my
" poor boy's virtues, how ſhall I ſup-
" port the melancholy reflection!"

Mr. Hervey endeavoured to convince Mr. Luſhington that, though his ſon had evidently ſtrayed from the path of rectitude, yet that there was no danger of his not returning to it again, and conjured him to ſend Adolphus immediately to ſome public ſchool; and, inſtead of chaſtiſing Henry as he deſerved, for his *falſhood and duplicity*, only to point out the baſeneſs of the

the principle that had actuated him, and leave *his conſcience* to inflict *the puniſhment*.

Mr. Luſhington highly approved Mr. Hervey's ſentiments, and requeſted him to take upon himſelf the office of recalling Henry to his duty; ſaying, that he really felt his ſpirits too much agitated for the taſk, yet he thought there was not a moment to be loſt; and therefore requeſted, when the boys went to repeat their leſſons, on the following morning, he would retain Henry for a private conference, and deſcribe the miſery which the alteration of his conduct had brought upon his parents.

Although Henry had tacitly agreed to the falſhood his couſin had invented, yet the conſciouſneſs of having *injured* a worthy man, and *deceived the beſt of fathers*, had ſuch an effect upon his mind, as totally to deſtroy the peacefulneſs of his ſlumbers.—If he cloſed his eyes his dreams were of the moſt frightful kind, and ſeemed to reproach him with the cruelty of his conduct—at one time his imagination was diſturbed by the wretched appearance of poor old Collins; who, deprived thro' his artifice of Mr. Luſhington's benevolence, lay extended on a truſs of ſtraw, the perfect image of famine and deſpair, whilſt his grand-children were weeping around him, and offering to ſhare with him the laſt remains of a dry cruſt of bread!

bread! Again he thought he ſaw his amiable parents ſurrounded by ſuch a profuſion of wealth and grandeur as abſolutely dazzled his eyes to behold; and his imagination depicted ſeveral of the ſable inhabitants, from the Eaſtern climes, bending under the load of treaſures which thoſe countries produce, and laying them all at the author of his being's feet; whilſt they, unable to derive any ſatisfaction from the gifts of fortune, begged they might be beſtowed upon thoſe whoſe minds were free from affliction; telling them that their diſtreſs, at having *ſo unworthy a ſon*, incapacited them for the enjoyment of other bleſſings.

From theſe diſtreſſing dreams, and

disturbed slumbers, Henry arose at an earlier hour than usual; and, taking up his book, endeavoured to drive them from his imagination; but his mind was not in a proper frame for attention, and whatever he read made not the slightest impression upon it:—he therefore laid down the book, rested his head upon his hand, and began reflecting upon his late behaviour; and the remorse which these reflections produced agitated his feelings to so violent a degree, that, bursting into an agony of tears, he exclaimed—"Oh, "my dearest parents, how shamefully "have I returned all your kindness to "me!"

Mr. Hervey, who had, unperceived

by Henry, opened the door of his apartment, felt much ſatisfaction at finding his pupil in a frame of mind ſo favourable to admonition; but not chuſing to take any notice of what he had heard, told him his brother and couſin had both repeated their leſſons, and were gone into the park, and deſired to know if he was prepared to recite his.

Henry, with an evident embarraſſment of manner, made ſome ſlight excuſe for deficiency, but promiſed to make ample amends for it after breakfaſt.

"Well, (ſaid Mr. Hervey, drawing "a chair, and ſeating himſelf cloſe to "Henry, as I am inclined to believe you

 "have

" have not been *waſting your time*, I
" ſhall not enquire a word *about your*
" *leſſon*;—and, would to Heaven, (con-
" tinued he, ſoftening the tone of his
" voice) I had no other complaint to
" alledge againſt you; but when I ſee
" a boy whom I had fondly hoped had
" been incapable of deceit and falſhood,
" plunge himſelf at once into the very
" depth of thoſe crimes, I think it my
" duty not only to point out the enor-
" mity of ſuch conduct, but to endea-
" vour to recal him to the practice of
" thoſe virtues which ſo juſtly endear-
" ed him to every part of his family.—
" I have heard (continued he) of the
" whole of your behaviour to poor old
" Richard; and, diſgraceful as it was,
" I could have made ſome ſlight allow-

" ance

" ance for it; but when I was told
" of your baſely endeavouring to ſcreen
" yourſelf from puniſhment by an in-
" vention the moſt cruel, I really
" ſhuddered with horror! —— You
" knew the unhappy man depended up-
" on your father's benevolence for his
" *entire ſupport*; and did it not ſtrike
" you that, by endeavouring to have
" that withdrawn, you were abſolutely
" becoming the deſtroyer of his exiſt-
" ence?—and that whatever miſery the
" poor creature might be doomed to
" undergo, you would, in fact, be its
" author?"

" Oh, Sir, (ſaid Henry, ſobbing
" aloud) I know I am a *ſhocking wicked*
" *boy*; but not ſo bad as you think me;

" for indeed I did not tell my father
" any thing about it—Adolphus *told*
" *all*, and I never ſpoke; indeed, in-
" deed, I did not."

" But *your ſilence* (replied Mr. Her-
" vey) was almoſt as culpable as your
" *couſin's falſhood*; and to hear another's
" character traduced, without endea-
" vouring to vindicate it, is very near
" as bad as if *you* were the traducer!
" However, as I firmly believe you
" ſee the enormity of the action, I
" will not ſay any more upon that ſub-
" ject—but I muſt aſk you whether the
" total alteration in your late conduct
" has never been attended with ſecret
" pangs of remorſe? — Whether you
" have never reflected upon the diſtreſs

" ſuch

"ſuch proceedings muſt occaſion your "amiable parents; who, inſtead of "looking upon you as a bleſſing ſent "from Heaven, have reaſon to fear "you will prove their greateſt misfor- "tune!"

The converſation was here interrupted by the appearance of Mr. Luſhington, who entered the room with the ſtrongeſt marks of ſorrow and tenderneſs impreſſed upon his manly countenance.

The moment Henry ſaw his father approaching he roſe from his ſeat, and throwing himſelf on his knees, beſought forgiveneſs, yet acknowledged his ununworthineſs to receive it, and promiſed a total

a total alteration of conduct. — Mr. Luſhington raiſed him from the humiliating poſture; and, preſſing him to his boſom, conjured him to perſevere in theſe reſolutions of amendment, which he promiſed ſhould mark the whole tenor of his future conduct; and giving him his word, that the paſt ſhould be entirely forgotten, ſhed over him tears of joy and tenderneſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

ADOLPHUS, who had experienced no pangs of remorſe, was aſtoniſhed when he met Henry in the breakfaſt-parlour, to perceive his eyes abſolutely ſwelled with weeping; and, in a whiſper, enquied if they were found out.

Mr. Luſhington, who judged what were the apprehenſions of his nephew, ſaid, in a determined tone of voice—"I am ſhocked, Adolphus, at the proofs "I have received of the *badneſs of* "*your diſpoſition*, and the *depravity of* "*your*

" *your heart*; and as I have reaſon to
" fear that your reſidence in my family
" has already been productive of a moſt
" ſerious evil, I am determined to
" guard againſt any farther bad conſe-
" quence. — I every moment expect
" my carriage at the door, to convey
" you to Wincheſter; and ſhall my-
" ſelf accompany you there, and place
" you under the immediate care of the
" head-maſter, who is my particular
" friend, and who, from that circum-
" ſtance, will, I know, take every pains
" to improve your mind, and *mend your*
" *morals*, if you chuſe to profit by his
" inſtructions."

The aſtoniſhment of all the young party, at this intelligence, may better be imagined

imagined than deſcribed; but the agitation of Adolphus was ſo violent, that he dropped the piece of bread and butter from his hand, and exclaimed—"Good God, uncle!—Surely you are "not in earneſt!"

"Never more ſo in my life, (replied "Mr. Luſhington) upon my honour." The arrival of the carriage, at that moment, confirmed the dreadful intelligence; and Adolphus, perceiving that remonſtrance would be vain, embraced his ſiſter and couſins, and ſhaking William and Henry by the hand, followed his uncle with tears in his eyes.

Although Caroline had never felt that ſtrength of attachment which frequently

quently ſubſiſts between brothers and ſiſters, and renders a ſeparation the moſt heart-felt grief that can befal them, yet, as ſhe was perfectly unprepared for ſuch a circumſtance, and perceived how repugnant it was to her brother's inclination, ſhe could not behold his departure with indifference, but, burſting into a flood of tears, ſhe ran out of the room, and locked herſelf into her own apartment.

Mrs Luſhington, who had imagined that Caroline was totally devoid of ſenſibility, was extremely glad to behold this proof to the contrary; and, after giving her a quarter of an hour to recover her ſpirits, ſhe followed her up ſtairs,

ſtairs, and, tapping gently at the door, requeſted to be admitted.

Caroline immediately opened the door, and diſcovered a countenance *really diſtreſſed*.—"My dear Caroline, "(ſaid Mrs. Luſhington) I am truly "grieved there was an abſolute neceſ- "ſity for ſeparating you from Adol- "phus; but indeed he is of ſo unami- "able a diſpoſition, that he required a "greater degree of ſeverity to conquer "it than your uncle or Mr. Hervey "could practiſe, and therefore it was "neceſſary to put him under the care "of a maſter who would feel no repug- "nance at adopting a mode of treat- "ment which, thank Heaven, our child- "ren have never required. But, as

"lenient

" lenient meaſures have not ſucceeded,
" I hope ſeverer ones will be attended
" with a better effect, and that we ſhall
" behold Adolphus yet turn out a very
" amiable man; but, ſhould he not,
" your uncle will at leaſt have the ſatis-
" faction of knowing that he did every
" thing in his power to promote that
" deſirable circumſtance.——But, my
" dear girl, (continued Mrs. Luſhing-
" ton) whilſt I lament the ill ſucceſs of
" our endeavours to correct the errors
" in your brother's education, I con-
" gratulate myſelf upon the improve-
" ment diſcernible in your manners,
" ſince you have become a part of our
" family; and think, that your ready
" compliance with my wiſhes deſerves
" the higheſt encomiums."

" Indeed,

"Indeed, aunt, (replied Caroline, "with a countenance animated with "pleaſure at her well-earned praiſe) I "am very ſenſible of my uncle's and "your kindneſs, and am convinced "my coming to Glandford-lodge was "the happieſt thing that could have be-"fallen me; for I doubt I ſhould have "turned out a very unamiable girl, if "I had been left entirely to *Madam* "*Le Moine's direction.*"

"Say rather to *your own*, my love; "(replied Mrs. Luſhington) for I un-"derſtand ſhe never attempted to op-"poſe your wiſhes; and therefore the "failings I diſcovered in your charac-"ter I always rather *pitied than blamed*, "and attributed them all to the imper-

"fection

"fection of your education.—But what
"have we here (ſhe continued, taking
"up a book in a very dirty cover) the
"external part of it does not ſay much
"in its favor."

Caroline immediately betrayed the moſt evident marks of confuſion; and, when Mrs. Luſhington perceived, by the title-page, it was a very low novel, ſhe looked extremely diſpleaſed, and enquired by what means it had come into her niece's poſſeſſion.

"I—I— am quite aſhamed, indeed,
"aunt; (ſtammered out Caroline) but
"I borrowed it of Betty—and I give
"you my word that, as long as I live,
"I never will read another novel."

"Oh,

"Oh, (replied Mrs. Luſhington) I "do not deſire you to give me a pro- "miſe of that nature; for, ſome years "hence, when you have ſtored your "mind with *more uſeful knowledge*, I "ſhould not object to your *occaſionally* "amuſing yourſelf with that kind of "reading;—but then I ſhould beg "leave to guide your choice; and you "muſt ſuppoſe that I ſhould not, at "any rate, ſuffer you to read ſuch "traſh as would be entertaining to my "houſe-maid:—but the kind of read- "ing that ought to occupy all your "time, at preſent, is hiſtory, travels, and "geography."

"Indeed, aunt (ſaid Caroline) I "ſhould like very much to read tra-

"vels;

"vels; for I had a very pretty little "book of Gulliver's—and I did learn "a little of Geography, with Madam "Lemoin; and remember reading "that in China, all the little children "had their feet bound up, as ſoon "as they were born, to make them "ſmall."

"And is that all you recollect of "China? replied Mrs. Luſhington."—Caroline was ſilent.

"You doubtleſs know what part of "the world it is in!"—Still no reply.

"Well, (continued Mrs. Luſhing-"ton) you have proved that your "*knowledge of geography has not been*

"*very*

" *very edifying*; and, as you are totally
" ignorant of the ſituation of China, I
" will juſt tell you, it is an immenſe
" empire, in the eaſtern part of Aſia,
" about two thouſand miles in length,
" and fifteen hundred in breadth; that
" it contains mines of iron, tin, cop-
" per, quickſilver, gold, and ſilver;
" that it produces ſeveral kinds of
" corn, and abounds in rice; and that
" it is the country from whence all
" ſorts of tea are imported.—That the
" empire is allowed to have exiſted
" four thouſand years; and that learn-
" ing and the ſciences are highly cul-
" tivated. The Emperor is complete
" maſter of the lives and fortunes of
" his ſubjects, though he treats them
" with great affection, and looks upon

"them as his children. The Chineſe,
"in general, are allowed to be ex-
"tremely keen in their method of
"conducting buſineſs, and are natu-
"rally inclined to take unfair advan-
"tages. Their religion is Paganiſm;
"but the part of their hiſtory which
"you would moſt diſapprove, is their
"treatment of their *wives*, whom they
"conſider in no other light than as
"creatures ſent into the world to mi-
"niſter to their comforts and conveni-
"ence; and a plurality is allowable."

"Oh, aunt! (ſaid Caroline) are
"you not very happy that you were not
"born in China?"

"Indeed, my love, (replied Mrs.
"Luſhington)

" Luſhington) I am thankful to Provi-
" dence for having placed me in the
" ſituation that he has, for none can be
" more enviable; but in whatever ſta-
" tion he had diſpoſed of me, I ſhould
" have endeavoured to acquire con-
" tentment."

The converſation was here interrupted by Mrs. Luſhington perceiving an elegant chariot drive up to the door, and the ſervant's announcing Lady Benfield.

CHAP. IX.

LADY BENFIELD was a near relation of Mrs. Luſhington, and godmother to Henry—the purpoſe of her viſit was to invite him to ſpend a few days at Benfield-houſe; but, as his father was from home, and his late conduct had not been ſuch as to merit indulgence, Mrs. Luſhington was under the neceſſity of refuſing her friend's requeſt; but promiſed that, at a future period, he ſhould avail himſelf of her kindneſs.

Lady

Lady Benfield, at taking leave, put into her god-ſon's hand a very elegant new pocket-book, containing a twenty-ſhilling note; which he viewed with ſenſations of delight, reſolving to beſtow it upon poor old Richard, as ſome compenſation for the unkindneſs of his treatment.

Accordingly, as ſoon as he had completed his ſtudies with Mr. Hervey, inſtead of joining his brother in ſome kind of amuſement, as was the uſual cuſtom between breakfaſt and dinner, he took his hat, and ran to the cottage, without expreſſing his intention to any one.

Collins and his family were juſt ſeat-

ed round an oak table, to partake the homely meal which Mr. Luſhington's liberality enabled them to enjoy, when Henry entered, with a countenance over-ſpread with the bluſh of ſhame.

"Richard, (ſaid he) I am come to "beg your pardon, and to tell you "that I am quite ſhocked at my late "behaviour; but, if you can forget "it, I ſhall take care never to offend "you again."

"Forget it, Maſter Henry! (re-"plied the old man, with tears in his "eyes) yes, that I can; and thank "God that I live to ſee you the dear, "good-tempered young gentleman you "uſed to be; but I never blamed you "half as much as I did that bad boy

"who

"who miſled you; for I always thought
"you'd come about again."

"Indeed, (ſaid Henry) I have been
"very much to blame, and ought not to
"have liſtened to my couſin's advice;
"but I beg it may all be forgotten,
"and that you will take this note,
"which my God-mamma has juſt given
"me, as a payment for all the ſhillings
"I avoided given you."

"*No, Sir,* (replied Richard) that I
"am ſure I never will do—you have
"been very kind to me, and I am
"much obliged to you; but, thank
"God, I know what *is right* better than
"to take ſuch a gift as that."

"Well, (ſaid Henry) then, if *you* "will not *have it, Stephen ſhall.*"

"No, Maſter, (replied the boy) "that I won't though; for, if grand-"father thinks he han't a right to it, I "am ſure he would not let me touch "it."

Henry, finding it impoſſible to perſuade either of theſe honeſt creatures to avail themſelves of his kindneſs, put the note into the hands of a little boy, about ſix years old; and running out of the houſe, was at home in leſs than than ten minutes.

Juſt as he arrived at the park-gate he

he ſaw his ſiſters and couſin, attended by the nurſe-maid, in cloſe conference with a poor woman, whoſe tattered appearance called forth their compaſſion.

"Oh, Henry (ſaid Eliza) I am glad "you are come; for here is a poor "woman in great diſtreſs, and we have "not money enough to make her com-"fortable."

"Well, (replied Henry, taking out "his purſe) I will give her all I have "got; but it is only three and ſix-"pence."

"Oh Lord, Sir! (ſaid the woman, "burſting into a flood of tears) that

"will never do; and I shall have the "misery of seeing my poor old mother "dragged to prison, because I can-"not raise money for her rent."

"Come with us to the Lodge (said "all the children at once) and our "mamma will give you plenty of "money."

"There is not time for *that*, (replied "the woman) for I had but an hour "to try to raise it by charity, and I "doubt it is expired."

Henry immediately took out his watch to satisfy her as to the time, when, perceiving it to be a valuable one, she said—"Oh, my dear young

" gentleman, if you would but lend
" me that watch, to run to my poor
" dear mother's unfeeling creditors
" with, it would convince them her
" debt would be paid; and then you
" could tell your honoured mamma
" the whole of my unfortunate ſtory,
" and I dare ſay ſhe would ſend me
" half-a-guinea, and that, with all the
" money theſe dear young ladies have
" given me, is the whole of the debt
" which ſhe owes."

The ſervant objected to this propoſal, ſaying, That if ſhe would run down to the Lodge, ſhe was ſure her miſtreſs would relieve her, but that Maſter Henry ought not to give his watch to an entire ſtranger. However,

Betty's arguments were ſoon over-ruled by *Eliza's entreaties*; and the watch was delivered in truſt, upon Eliza's declaring that ſhe was ſure, if Henry had heard the whole of the poor woman's ſtory, he would not only have given up his watch, but the very coat off his back.

The moment the woman got poſſeſſion of her treaſure—"God bleſs you, "my dear Sir, (ſaid ſhe) make the "beſt of your way to your honoured "mamma, and tell her the whole of "my diſtreſs; and, when ſhe is good "enough to ſend me ſome relief, I "will return the watch, with a thouſand "bleſſings on your generous head:"

and

and away ſhe ran towards the adjoining village.

" Well, Eliza, (ſaid Henry, as ſoon " as ſhe was gone) but I don't know " any thing about her ſtory. What " is it?"

" Oh, (replied Eliza) is is the moſt " lucky thing that could have happen- " ed, that you came up to us juſt as you " did, or the poor old woman muſt have " been ſent to gaol.—You muſt know " *that* young woman is the beſt crea- " ture in the world, for ſhe ſupported " her mother and two little ſiſters, all " with her own hands; and they lived " at the next village; but, poor thing, " ſhe has been very ill for a good

" while,

"while, and ſo you know ſhe could "not work; and the rent for their "little cottage was due to-day; and, "becauſe they had no money to pay it, "the hard-hearted landlord declared "he would put her old mother into "priſon; but the poor thing that has "juſt left us, on her knees requeſted "he would give her a little time, juſt "to try, and either *beg* or *borrow* the "money; and lucky enough it was "that ſhe happened to pop upon us, "for God knows what would have be-"come of her if ſhe had not."

"Lucky, indeed; (replied Henry) "but yonder I ſee my mamma and "William, walking on the other ſide "the ſhrubbery; I will jump over the "hedge,

"hedge, and tell her all about it, and "then you can meet us at the gate;"—and away he ran, breathleſs with impatience to relate the little ſtory, which he did not doubt would intereſt his mamma's compaſſion, as much as it had done his ſiſters'.

Mrs. Luſhington's heart was ever open to a tale of diſtreſs, and ſhe liſtened to her ſon's relation with the utmoſt attention; but, when ſhe heard that the woman had claimed his watch as a ſecurity to her mother's creditors, ſhe was immediately perſuaded that ſhe was an impoſtor; and, when ſhe arrived at the gate, and met Betty and the young ladies, their accounts corroborated her ſuſpicions——however,

ever, ſhe reſolved immediately to go to the place where this artful creature had directed; but, inſtead of finding a poor old woman, languiſhing under age and infirmity, the houſe was occupied by a young, healthy pair, who ſeemed totally unacquainted with misfortune or diſeaſe; and all reſearch after the unworthy fugitive was fruitleſs and unavailing.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the aſtoniſhment, mortification, and diſappointment that was depicted on the countenance of the credulous little party, when their mamma returned, and informed them that the whole of the ſtory was a fabrication, to impoſe on their good-nature and benevolence.

A total

A total ſilence for ſome moments prevailed, at length Henry exclaimed, "it was all Eliza's fault, mamma, "that I gave my watch—indeed it "was."

"It was, indeed, (ſaid Eliza, burſt-"ing into tears) and I have nothing "to give you, to make you amends for "it, which is worſe than all the reſt."

"Well, (ſaid Caroline) it will teach "us how we are charitable to *ſtrangers* "again, I think; for whenever any body "tries to impoſe upon me with a Can-"terbury tale again, I ſhall think of "poor Henry and his watch, and keep "my money ſnug in my pocket."

"If

"If that ſhould be the caſe, my "dear Caroline, you would have more "reaſon to regret the circumſtance "than Henry, (ſaid Mrs. Luſhington) "for you would at once deprive your-"ſelf of the firſt of all enjoyments— "But, though I would check that "indiſcriminate charity that is nei-"ther founded on *judgment* or *obſerva-"tion*, yet I ſhould be ſhocked at "ſaying a word that could leſſen the "impreſſion of *real benevolence*; though "I am ſorry to ſay there are a number "of idle, depraved characters in the "world, whoſe exiſtence is ſupported "by the artful tale of fiction; and "therefore, my dear children, it is ne-"ceſſary you ſhould always be con-

" vinced that the object on whom
" you beſtow your charity is deſerving
" of it, otherwiſe you unknowingly
" *miniſter to vice*, inſtead of being *bene-*
" *ficial to virtue.*"

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

MR. LUSHINGTON did not return until the following morning, and, when he heard of Henry's loſs, and Eliza's grief upon the occaſion, he deſired them both to ſet their hearts at reſt, for he believed he could give them ſome intelligence of the watch.

"Oh, papa!—dear papa!—do tell "us how you came to know any thing "about it!"—they all exclaimed at once.

"You

"You muſt know then, (ſaid Mr. "Luſhington) that, as I was paſſing "through Andover, this afternoon, I "perceived a crowd gathered round a "young woman; and, enquiring the "cauſe, was informed that the officers "of juſtice were going to take her to "priſon, becauſe ſhe could not give a "ſatisfactory account of a gold watch, "that was in her poſſeſſion—"

"Oh, 'twas mine!—'twas mine!— "'twas mine!——(exclaimed Henry, "clapping his hands, and jumping for "joy) and I know I ſhall have it "again.—But, dear papa, pray tell me "what came next."

"You have interrupted the thread "of

" of my ſtory, (replied Mr. Luſhing-
" ton) and you know I have often
" told you it is one of the moſt ill bred
" things in the world to check the
" progreſs of any relation, by obſer-
" vations or queſtions—however, this
" once I can excuſe your eagerneſs,
" and will proceed with my ſtory.

" A mixture of benevolence and
" curioſity induced me to alight from
" my carriage; and, going up to the
" young woman, I enquired what was
" her offence.

" An officer of juſtice immediately
" pulled out a watch, which, he ſaid,
" ſhe had offered to ſale, and refuſed
" giving

" giving any account how it came into
" her poſſeſſion."

" I had no ſooner glanced my eye
" upon it than I knew it to be the one
" I had given you, and immediately
" *laid claim to it.* The poor wretch,
" finding it impoſſible to eſcape, then
" threw herſelf upon her knees, and
" beſought forgiveneſs; conjuring me,
" in the ſtrongeſt terms, to have pity
" upon the *diſtreſs* which had *compelled*
" her to an act of *fraud and decep-*
" *tion.*

" I went with her immediately to
" a magiſtrate's; and ſhe is lodged in
" a place of ſecurity, until I can ſend
" to her pariſh, and diſcover whether
" all

" all ſhe has ſaid of her misfortunes is
" really true, or whether it was an artful
" invention to impoſe upon my huma-
" nity. If ſhe has ſuffered the various
" diſtreſſes ſhe deſcribes, I intend to
" put her in ſome way of *ſupporting*
" *life*, without the *practice of infamy*;
" but, if ſhe proves a *complete impoſtor*,
" ſhe ſhall be kept to hard labour for
" ſix months, as a means of deterring
" her in future from ſuch iniquitous
" artifices."

" Indeed, my dear uncle, (ſaid Caro-
" line) I think you are too good to
" ſuch a ſhocking creature. When I
" was at the Abbey I never thought of
" giving away my money at all; and

"I am ſure I have no pleaſure in
"thinking that vile woman had it."

"Then pray, Caroline, (ſaid Mr.
"Luſhington) how did you diſpoſe
"of all the money your father's libe-
"rality beſtowed upon you; for I un-
"derſtand you never had leſs than half-
"a-guinea a-week?"

"Why, Sir, (replied Caroline) if
"I wanted any trinkets I thought my
"mamma would not buy me, I pur-
"chaſed them myſelf; and, if I did
"not, I kept it by me until I had four
"or five guineas."

"Your *keeping your money*, (ſaid Mr.
"Luſhington) reminds me of a cir-

" cumſtance related of the Prince of
" Condé, which is not inapplicable to
" our preſent ſubject, and therefore I
" will tell it you:—

" The Prince of Condé was going to
" ſpend a month or ſix weeks at his coun-
" try-ſeat, and, upon taking leave of
" his ſon, a boy of nine years old, he
" put into his hand a purſe, containing
" fifty Louis d'ors, as an an allowance
" during his abſence.—At his return to
" Paris, the boy produced the purſe,
" ſaying, '*Papa, here's all the money you*
' gave me, quite ſafe; I have never once
' touched it.'—The prince, inſtead of
" making any reply, looked grave;
" and taking him by the hand, led him
" to the window, when, throwing it
" open,

"open, he emptied the purſe into the "ſtreet; ſaying—'If you have nei-'ther *virtue enough to give away your* '*money*, nor *ſpirit enough to ſpend it*, 'do this in future, that the poor may 'at leaſt have a *chance for it.*'

"How aſtoniſhed the young prince "muſt have looked, papa, (ſaid Hen-"ry) for I dare ſay he thought his "father would praiſe his carefulneſs. "But pray, Sir, (continued he) have "you really got my watch?"

Mr. Luſhington, not only produced it, but returned it to its owner, with a ſtrong caution to him never again to be impoſed upon by a tale of improbability, but always to be convinced that

the perſon on whom he beſtowed his charity was worthy of receiving it.

Their eagerneſs to relate the impoſition that had been practiſed upon them ſuſpended for a-while their curioſity about Adolphus; but the moment the ſubject was dropped, Caroline enquired, with ſome degree of ſolicitude, both after his health and ſpirits, and was informed that the former was quite perfect, but the latter very dejected.

A fortnight elapſed without the occurrence of any material circumſtance, when one morning, as they were all at breakfaſt, they perceived a man riding up to the houſe in a moſt violent hurry, and

and the footman immediately entered with a letter, addreſſed to Mr. Luſhington, who peruſed it with marks of evident agitation.

"I fear (ſaid Mrs. Luſhington) that "letter contains ſome alarming intelli- "gence!—Do, for pity's ſake, tell me "of what nature it is!"

"Alarming, indeed! (replied Mr. "Luſhington) the letter is from the "head maſter of Wincheſter, inform- "ing me, that yeſterday afternoon "Adolphus abſconded from ſchool; "and that all endeavours to trace the "rout he has taken have proved ineffectual. He tells me he apprehends "this raſh action proceeds from an ex-

" peſtation of ſuffering public chaſtiſe-
" ment, for a fault of the moſt *diſgrace-*
" *ful kind*; and intreats me, if I am for-
" tunate enough to diſcover his abode,
" not to think of placing him at Win-
" cheſter again, for his vices are ſuffi-
" cient to corrupt a whole ſchool."

Caroline and Henry both burſt into tears; and the reſt of the children looked extremely dejected.—Mr. Luſhington left the room to converſe with the meſſenger who had brought the diſtreſſing intelligence, but from him he could obtain no ſatisfactory account of the meaſures that had been taken to trace the worthleſs fugitive. He therefore returned in a few minutes, and informed Mrs. Luſhington that he was reſolv-

ed

ed immediately to ſet out for Wincheſter, conceiving that ſome one of the boys might be let into his nephew's ſecret, and hoping from thence that he might be able to trace his rout.

CHAP. XI.

AS ſoon as Mr. Luſhington arrived at the ſchool he expreſſed his hopes of diſcovering his nephew's reſidence from the communications of ſome of his ſchoolfellows; and, as there was one boy with whom he had been intimate, he was immediately ſummoned to a private audience with Mr. Luſhington and the head maſter.

The boy, whoſe countenance evinced both a ſullenneſs and moroſeneſs of

of diſpoſition, replied to all their interrogations in an evaſive manner, that proved he was deviating from truth; but though he was offered a *reward*, if he would diſcover the reſidence of Adolphus, and threatened with a ſevere puniſhment, if it was found out that he really was acquainted with it, and refuſed to reveal it, yet he remained inflexible.

At length the doctor left the room, and the lad was going to follow, when Mr. Luſhington arreſted his ſteps, by ſaying—"I think it neceſſary "to tell you, Sir, that, if you have "a *real regard* for my nephew, your "preſent mode of evincing it is pecu-"liarly unfortunate!—It is entirely for

" his ſake that I am ſolicitous to diſ-
" cover his reſidence; that, whatever
" may be the bent of his inclination,
" I may promote it.—As to forcing
" him to remain at ſchool, that I cer-
" tainly will not do; for, finding he
" has an averſion to ſtudy, I will not
" preſs it upon him; but, if you have
" either heard him expreſs a deſire to
" enter into the army or navy, I in-
" treat that you will inform me of it,
" and point out by what means I can
" let him know that I will *not oppoſe his*
" *inclination*."

It was ſome minutes before he made a reply; but at length his features relaxed into a degree of ſoftneſs, and he ſaid—" Though I have given my

" poſitive

" poſitive promiſe to Adolphus, not " to diſcover his reſidence, yet, Sir, " if you wiſh to ſend him a letter, I " can manage to let it reach his hands; " for, as you ſay you are willing he " ſhould go into the navy or army, I " don't ſee any reaſon why you ſhould " not know his reſolution at once, in- " ſtead of waiting until his mother can " inform you of it; for he has written " to her upon the ſubject."

Mr. Luſhington again repeated his reſolution not to oppoſe his nephew's wiſhes; and, calling for pen, ink, and paper, he wrote a much more affectionate letter than Adolphus had a right to expect; the purport of which was to ſay that, as he had withdrawn

himſelf from the protecting care of Doctor ———, and had choſen a mode of life for himſelf, that he only was ſolicitous to aſſiſt him with his advice, and to promote his intereſt and happineſs; and therefore, as he had been informed by his friend that he had deſcribed his future wiſhes in a letter to his mother, he begged he would go to her houſe *immediately*, inſtead of ſecreting himſelf in ſome ſituation that might neither be *reſpectable or proper*; and, to enable him to do this, he incloſed him a five-pound note, that he might ſet out directly; and gave him a promiſe to meet him there on the following day.

Mr.

Mr. Luſhington then ſent off his ſervant to Glandford-lodge, to apprize Mrs. Luſhington of his ſucceſs; and at four o'clock, the next afternoon, arrived at Mrs. Henley's.

His firſt queſtion was to know whether his nephew was there:—and the affirmative anſwer which he received, from the ſervant maid, afforded him the higheſt ſatisfaction.

When Adolphus met his uncle, his countenance teſtified that he was not quite loſt to the ſenſe of ſhame, and he ſtammered out a kind of confuſed apology.

Without

Without the ſlighteſt appearance of anger, Mr. Luſhington blamed the ſtep he had adopted, and pointed out how much better it would have been candidly to have expreſſed his repugnance to remaining at ſchool, inſtead of having taken ſo unprecedented a mode of obtaining it.

After much converſation Mr. Luſhington diſcovered, that this new propenſity was occaſioned by Adolphus having formed an acquaintance with a young midſhipman, of the name of Collier, whoſe mother lived at Winchester, and whoſe repreſentation of the happineſs of a ſailor's life had induced Adolphus to reſolve upon becoming one; which was ſtrengthened by his maſter's

maſter's having diſcovered that he had been endeavouring to perſuade the boys to an *open rebellion*; and his having expreſſed a reſolution to puniſh him openly, and then return him to his friends.

It was in vain that Mrs. Henley endeavoured to oppoſe her ſon's inclination, or painted the dangers and diſtreſſes of a ſeafaring life. Difficulties ſeemed but to increaſe deſire, and it was ſoon finally determined that Mr. Luſhington ſhould immediately take him down to Portſmouth, and put him under the care of young Collier's captain, who happened to be his moſt intimate friend.

The idea of no longer being compelled to ſtudy Latin and Greek filled the mind of Adolphus with a ſenſation of delight; and his impatience to get to Portſmouth was abſolutely unbounded.

Although Mr. Luſhington had reſolved he ſhould never again become an inmate of his family, yet, when he was informed that Captain Parſons's ſhip was to be three years ſtationed in the Mediterranean, he thought it right to make his nephew the offer of taking a perſonal leave of his ſiſter.

But the heart of Adolphus repelled all

all ſenſations of genuine affection and tenderneſs, and admitted only *ſelf-intereſted impreſſions.*——Inſtead of expreſſing his acknowledgments to his uncle, for ſuch unmerited indulgence, he ſaid, it would only be *waſting time*—and he did not believe his ſiſter wiſhed to ſee him.

They accordingly ſet out the following day for Portſmouth, and, in leſs than a week he was completely equipped for his voyage.

After Mr. Luſhington had placed him under the immediate care of Captain Parſons, and made him a very liberal allowance for his ſupport,

part, he took leave of a boy who, from the moment he had been placed under his care, had kept his mind in a ſtate of unremitting ſolicitude and anxiety.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

DURING the time Mr. Luſhington had been occupied in the equipment of his nephew, Mrs. Luſhington's mind had laboured under the moſt painful apprehenſions. Henry, the day after his father's departure, was ſeized with a violent pain in his head, and a cold ſhivering fit.

Mr. Mordant was immediately ſent for, who pronounced it a ſymptom of approach-

approaching fever—and in the courſe of a few hours his pulſe became full and quick, and his head grew light.

Terrified with fear, Mrs. Luſhington wiſhed to ſend an expreſs for her huſband; but, as Mr. Mordant did not apprehend any immediate danger, Mr. Hervey perſuaded her to poſtpone it, and watched by the bedſide of his pupil, with all the tenderneſs of parental ſolicitude.

Although the violence of the fever deranged poor Henry's ideas, yet he had a recollection of the perſons who approached his bed; and, whenever Mr. Hervey came near it, would call

call out—"Oh, Sir! I do not de-
"ſerve your kindneſs!—'Twas I who
"made you ſuffer ſo much!—Yes,
"it was me who made you fall in-
"to the water;—wicked boy that I
"was!—But Adolphus perſuaded me
"to it!—Where is Adolphus (he
"would exclaim) is he gone to poor
"old Richard's?—Don't let him
"pelt him!—Don't let him abuſe
"him!"—Then he would burſt into tears, and ſay, how unworthy he was of his parents' kindneſs!

It was in vain that Mrs. Luſhington attempted to compoſe his mind, by aſſuring him of her love and tenderneſs, or by her endeavours to convince him of his own *good qualities*; for

for the acuteneſs of his feelings increaſed his fever ſo much, that at length he was totally devoid of recollection.

In this ſituation Mr. Mordant thought it right to give him a ſtrong compoſing draught, which had the happieſt effect; and ſix hours of uninterrupted ſleep produced a return of ſenſe and recollection! The fever gradually abated, and in three days he was able to get up to have his bed made.

The incoherent accounts which Henry had given, of the injury done Mr. Hervey, made a ſtrong impreſſion on his mind, and he reſolved, as ſoon as his

his pupil was abſolutely recovered from his indiſpoſition, to aſk an explanation of the expreſſions he had uſed.

Accordingly, one morning, as they were taking an airing in the chariot, and Henry had been expreſſing his obligations to Mr. Hervey, for all his kindneſs during his illneſs, that gentleman, in a tone of the utmoſt mildneſs, ſaid—"My dear boy, "I felt peculiarly happy in having it "in my power to prove how thoroughly I was intereſted in your "recovery, by every attention I "thought likely to promote it; for "I have long conſidered you rather in the light of *my ſon*, than

"my

" *my pupil*, and felt all the anxious
" ſolicitude of a father when I thought
" there was a probability of loſing
" you. But tell me, (continued he,
" fixing his eyes on Henry's coun-
" tenance) I would wiſh to know,
" whether the ambiguous expreſſions
" you uſed during your illneſs, re-
" ſpecting my fall into the water,
" had any *real reference* to that cir-
" cumſtance, or whether they were
" merely the effect of a diſordered
" imagination?"

The crimſon hue of Henry's countenance inſtantly teſtified the embarraſſment of his mind; and, in a voice rendered tremulous by fear and ſhame, he ſaid, " Oh, Sir! *I dare not tell it*

" *you*;

" *you*; though I have often wiſhed and " reſolved to do it!"

Mr. Hervey aſſured him that he was ſo convinced of his contrition for his errors, that he ſhould not feel the ſlighteſt degree of either anger or reſentment againſt him, let his conduct have been ever ſo reprehenſible; and told him, that the only atonement he could make for a fault, was to confeſs it.

Encouraged by the promiſe of forgiveneſs, and urged by a ſenſe of duty, he made an ample confeſſion of the whole of his conduct; and, in the moſt contrite language acknowledged his errors, and beſought forgiveneſs.

Mr. Hervey, in the moſt affectionate manner, aſſured him of his pardon; but at the ſame time pointed out to him the danger of attending to pernicious councils.

"Had you, my dear Henry, (ſaid "he) but have made uſe of your "reaſon, when that wicked boy firſt "endeavoured to *weaken your duty* "*and affection* for your amiable pa- "rents, it would have convinced you "of the *depravity of his heart*, and "prevented him from having the "ſlighteſt aſcendency over your mind. "I hope, if at a future period of "your life, you are tempted to de- "viate from the path of rectitude, you "will give yourſelf time to aſk your "heart

"heart whether the action would *bear*
"*expoſure*; or whether it is neceſſary
"to *ſecrete* it from the *public eye*.—
"If, in the ſlighteſt degree, you
"ſhrink from *detection*, be aſſured the
"action is *diſgraceful*, and ought to be
"avoided."

The carriage had by this time reached the Lodge, and the dinner was waiting their arrival; for Mr. Hervey had been ſo intereſted in the converſation, that he had let the man drive further than he intended.

As they were ſeated round the table, after dinner Mr. Luſhington had occaſion to look at his almanack;

and, turning over the leaves—"Bleſs "me, (he exclaimed) why Thurſday's "the day, and we have hardly any "time for preparation!"

"Preparations for what, uncle?" ſaid Caroline, with eagerneſs.

"For our little ruſtic fête, my love; "(replied Mr. Luſhington) for you "muſt know it is my regular cuſtom, "on the anniverſary of my reſidence "at the Lodge, to give an entertain- "ment to all the poor of the neigh- "bouring village; and, after they have "regaled themſelves with roaſt-beef, "plum-pudding, and home-brewed "ale, the ſprightly notes of the violin

" attract the younger ones to the lawn,
" where my wife and children join
" the ſprightly groupe; and by the
" condeſcending good humour of their
" manner, baniſh that conſtraint which
" might otherwiſe be put upon them.
" After dancing a couple of hours,
" the entertainment cloſes by a half-
" crown piece, and a new pink rib-
" bon, which my daughters have the
" pleaſure of diſtributing to each of
" their female gueſts; and my ſons
" give a coloured handkerchief, and
" the ſame ſum to their male ones."

" Oh, aunt, how I long for Thurſ-
" day; (ſaid Caroline) but may *I*
" *give away* ſome of the ribbons?"

 " Certainly,

"Certainly, (replied Mrs. Luſhing-
"ton) if you chuſe to purchaſe them;
"for my children have ſo much
"gratification in that mode of diſ-
"poſing of their money, that they
"every week put by ſixpence of
"their allowance, to enable them to
"enjoy it; but, as Emily told me
"ſhe informed you, ſoon after your
"arrival, *that was their plan*, and
"you refuſed becoming a party in it,
"I had no idea you would receive
"pleaſure from becoming one of their
"members."

"Indeed, aunt, (ſaid Caroline) I
"did not quite underſtand what my
"couſin meant; but I think very
"differently

" differently now to what I did
" when I firſt came to the Lodge,
" and have very different pleaſures;
" and, if you would be ſo good as
" to lend me ſome money to buy
" the ribbons, I will pay you again,
" out of my weekly allowance."

" Indeed, my dear girl, (replied
" Mrs. Luſhington) you not only
" *think differently, but act ſo*—and the
" alteration in your conduct affords
" me the higheſt pleaſure.—I will
" not *lend* you the money, but *give*
" *it you*; and ſhall always rejoice in
" being able to gratify you in any
" amiable inclination."

Mr. and Mrs. Luſhington then immediately gave ſeparate orders to the ſervants to have preparations made for the rural feaſts; and the young people, attended by Mrs. Darnley, went to Andover, to make their purchaſes.

Caroline, aroſe on the day of feſtivity, with a heart elated by the expectation of ſome untaſted joy; but all the pleaſure ſhe had experienced in anticipation, was far exceeded by the *reality*.

The joyous countenance of the *young*—and the *contented* and *placid* appearance of the *old*, gave a pleaſing

ing ſenſation to her mind, which it is impoſſible for me to deſcribe;—but, when the hour of departure arrived, and the diſtribution of the gifts took place, the expreſſions of gratitude which were poured forth from every quarter, had ſomething in them that was *affecting* and *delightful*; — and, taking her aunt by the hand, ſhe declared ſhe had never ſpent a day *half ſo happily* in the whole courſe of her life.

"I am very glad to find, my dear "Caroline, (ſaid Mrs. Luſhington) "that your heart is capable of re- "liſhing ſuch happineſs, becauſe it "is of a nature eaſily to be obtain-

" ed; and you will have the ſatis-
" faction of rejoicing the hearts of
" others, whilſt you are gratifying
" your own."

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

FROM the moment that Adolphus quitted the Lodge, peace and tranquillity had been reſtored.

Henry, ſenſible of his former errors, was ſtudious to eraſe from his parents' mind the unfavourable impreſſion which ſuch behaviour muſt have produced:—and William, fancying that his brother's intimacy with his couſin had proceeded from his not

not having ſhared in his amuſements, relaxed in his attention to books, and occaſionally engaged in thoſe ſports which Henry was amuſed with.

Emily, who had ſeverely ſuffered from not being allowed to receive that inſtruction of which ſhe was ſo fond, reſolved to conquer a failing that might ſubject her to a repetition of it; and Eliza was at laſt convinced that it was much better always to *avow* a fault than to wait until it was detected.

Caroline each day convinced her friends that her errors had entirely proceeded

proceeded from a wrong mode of education; and gratified them with the proſpect of her becoming a moſt amiable woman.

Adolphus had been abſent about four months, and no intelligence had been received from him, when the poſtman delivered a letter to Mr. Luſhington; which, from the black ſeal, and foreign poſt-mark, called forth his alarm and apprehenſion.

The letter was from Captain Parſons, and conveyed the melancholy intelligence of poor Adolphus's death, occaſioned wholly by his *folly* and *ſelf-will*.

He

He had, from practice, acquired the art of aſcending the ropes when the ſhip *was at anchor*, with great agility; but had never attempted it when ſhe was in motion, or the ſea rough; but for a trifling wager, (contrary to the captain's orders) he choſe to make the attempt when the ſea ran *very high*, and the ſhip was in *full ſail*. The conſequence of which was, that the motion of the veſſel called forth his alarm; and, unable to retain his hold, he was precipitated into the boiſterous element, and all attempts to ſave his life were ineffectual.

Mr. Luſhington peruſed the letter with ſenſations of real grief and concern;

cern; and, calling his ſons into his ſtudy, he not only read them its contents, but requeſted it might be impreſſed upon their minds, as a uſeful leſſon for their future conduct, and teach them, that the *inexperience of youth* ought always to ſubmit to the *guidance of age.*

Caroline Henley, by the death of her brother, became poſſeſſed of an immenſe fortune, which there is every reaſon to ſuppoſe will be devoted to acts of benevolence and humanity, as the *Force of Good Example* made a much ſtronger impreſſion upon her mind, than the prevalence of *bad* had upon her couſin Henry.

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